

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4655

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 9049

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AR, US

SUBJ: PRESS SPECULATES ON POSSIBLE VISIT TO ARGENTINA BY SECY  
KISSINGER

1. SUMMARY: IN A LENGTHY AND DETAILED ARTICLE, HERIBERTO KAHN OF LA OPINION OUTLINES THE MAJOR OUTSTANDING US/GOA BI-LATERAL ISSUES, AND DISCUSSES THE MOTIVATIONS FOR AND PROBABILITIES OF A MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY KISSINGER AND PRESIDENT PERON IN BUENOS AIRES BEFORE THE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH THE LA FOREIGN MINISTERS IN MEXICO CITY. AS IN PREVIOUS KAHN REPORTING OF INTENDED VISIT OF PERON TO US (SEE BA 7998; 8249), IT HIGHLY LIKELY THAT STORY IS ATLEAST IN PART OFFICIALLY INSPIRED. END SUMMARY.

2. IN HIS LATEST STORY DEALING WITH THE FUTURE TRAVEL PLANS OF HIGH RANKING US AND ARGENTINE OFFICIALS, HERIBERTO KAHN, AFTER A BRIEF REVIEW OF US/GOA RELATIONS SINCE PERON'S INAUGURATION AND A DETAILED CATALOGUING OF OUTSTANDING BI-LATERAL ISSUES, CONCLUDES THAT TO ACHIEVE AND MAINTAIN A "SPECIAL" RELATIONSHIP OF MUTUAL RESPECT, A PERSONAL DIALOGUE BETWEEN HENRY KISSINGER AND JUAN PERON IS REQUIRED.

3. KAHN LISTS AS MAJOR BI-LATERAL ISSUES OF CONCERN TO US:

A) THE PROBLEMS OF US FIRMS IN ARGENTINA VIS-A-VIS THE CUBA TRADE ISSUE; B) CIVIL AIR NEGOTIATIONS (IN WHICH KAHN SHOWS HIMSELF TO BE WELL BRIEFED); C) TERRORISM AGAINST US CITIZENS AND FIRMS; AND D) CONTROL OF DRUG TRAFFIC. IN DISCUSSING THESE

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ISSUES KAHN SEEMS TO IMPLY THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER WILL BRING THESE ISSUES UP IN ANY MEETING HE MIGHT HAVE WITH PERON.

4. ON GOA SIDE, KAHN INDICATES THE MAJOR CONCERN IS TO OBTAIN A GREATER LEVEL OF US INVESTMENT (SEE BA 8199) AND TO BRING PRESENT BI-LATEAL TRADE (HEAVILY IN US FAVOR) INTO BALANCE. THE ARGENTINES WOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN RAISING THESE ISSUES WITH THE SECRETARY.

5. TURNING TO THE "LARGER CONSIDERATIONS," KAHN STATES THAT "HENRY KISSINGERS NEW LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY CLEARLY HAS RESERVED A SPECIAL ROLE FOR ARGENTINA". IT IS EQUALLY OBVIOUS, NOTES KAHN THAT GIVEN WASHINGTONS CONFLICTIVE RELATIONS WITH LA, THE PERONIST GOVERNMENT IN ARGENTINA WANTS TO AND IS ESPCIALLY WELL QUALIFIED TO PLAY THE ROLE OF BRIDGE OR INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN THE US AND LA. KAHN ADDS THAT OFFICIALS ON BOTH SIDES HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED THE MOTIVATIONS OF THE OTHER. NOW ONLY FUTURE EVENTS WILL TELL IF THE ROLE THE US IMAGINES FOR ARGENTINA COINCIDES WITH THE ROLE ARGENTINA IMAGINES FOR HERSELF.

6. COMMENT: PART OF KAHN ARTICLE RESULTED FROM LENGTHY OFF-RECORD BRIEFING ON BILATERAL RELATIONS BY CHARGE. QUESTION OF POSSIBLE SECRETARIAT VISIT TO ARGENTINA WAS NOT EVEN RAISED DURING BRIEFING, HOWEVER, AND IT IS THEREFORE ASSUMED THAT KAHN'S LINE ON THAT SUBJECT COMES STRAIGHT OUT OF FOREIGN MINISTRY. PREVIOUS TRACK RECORD SUGGEST THIS IS ANOTHER ATTEMPT ON PART GOA TO SIGNAL ITS DESIRE FOR AN AMERICAN CONNECTION. IT CERTAINLY REFLECTS THE FACT THAT THE SECRETARY IS HIGHLY ESTEEMED HERE AND THAT VISIT BY HIM IS MUCH DESIRED. IN ARGENTINE EYES, SECRETARIAL LA TRIP WHICH INCLUDED ARGENTINA WOULD DRAMATIZE NEW US POSTURE TOWARD AND INTEREST IN LA PERHAPS MORE EFFECTIVELY THAN ANY OTHER STEP WE COULD TAKE AT THIS TIME.  
KREBS

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## Message Attributes

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